GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2571
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2001
INDIA`S PARTICIPATION IN ASEAN PMC AND ARF MEETINGS
Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian delegation attended the 34th ASEAN PMC and the 8th ARF meetings held in Hanoi in July;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held;

(c) whether India has urged the international community to back its campaign against terrorism; and

(d) if so, their response thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At the 34th ASEAN Post Ministerial Conferences (PMC), the major themes discussed included the global economic slowdown, the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI), launched by ASEAN to bridge the intra-ASEAN developmental gap, and functional cooperatio between India and ASEAN in different sectors. The ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) reviewed the security situation in the Asia-Pacifi region, and, as part of the future evolution of the ARF, discussed Confidence Building Measures (CBMs), preventive diplomacy, and the role of the ARF Chair.

(c) & (d) India highlighted the threat posed by international terrorism, and underlined the need for a collective response to combat this menace. Participating countries shared the concern over international terrorism, and agreed to discuss the issue in future deliberations of these fora.